CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. Introduction

(a) The East German State Geological Commission has its headquarters at
Staatliche Geologische Kommission (SGK)
Berlin N4,
Invalidenstrasse 44.
(Tel. 425961).

It is headed by State Secretary Karl Neumann and is now subordinate to the State Planning Commission.

(b) The SGK may be regarded as the successor of the former Royal Prussian Geological Center which, in 1938, became the Reich Center for Soil Research. In 1945, this latter Center became the German Geological Center. After various internal reorganizations, two independent organizations emerged, the Geological Service and the Geological Commission. These two organizations were amalgamated into the State Geological Commission(SGK) in the autumn of 1952.

2. Organization

Karl Neumann - chief
Dr. Stock - personal assistant

Main Dept. I (HA-I)	Main Dept. II (HA-II)	Admin. Depts. III -X
Prospecting & Plan Control. Grimmer - head	Preliminary Prospecting Work. Dr. Neels - head	(Staff, Press Office, Finance, Training &c)
Working groups I/1-I/7. Departments I/8-I/10.	Depts. II/1-II/11.	

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3. HA-I, Prospecting and Plan Control (Erkundungen und Plankontrolle)

Head: Grimmer, fnu. Working groups and departments, with their heads [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

I/1. Oil and coal.	Dr. Koelbel
I/2. Copper.	Dr. Koelbel
I/3. Iron.	Dipl. Ing. Pinckvoss
I/4. Nonferrous metals.	Dipl. Ing. Berthold
I/5. Nonmetals (Nichterzen) (including fluorspar, barite, etc.	Dr. Vogel
I/6. Potash and salts.	Pohl
I/7. Building materials (Steine und Erden) (including sand, clay, dolomite, granite, etc.	Dr. Dette
I/8. Technology (concerned with the development of new boring equipment and similar problems).	Schubert
I/9. Hydrogeology (water supplies to industry, ground water, etc.).	Breyer
I/10. Engineering geology (problems connected with dams and barrages, roads and railways).	Dr. Zoeltsch

4. HA-II, Preliminary Prospecting Work (Vorerkundungen)

Head: Dr. Neels Departments and chiefs:

II/1. Mapping (compilation of the geological maps).	Dr. Genieser
II/2. Technical cartography (of the data provided by the geologists of II/1).	Wethlow
II/3. Soil geology.	Dipl. Ing. Jahn

Sub-section 1. Investigation of alluvial deposits.
2. Soil maps.
3. Display of soil investigation results on 1:25,000 maps.
4. Edge cultivation (Urbarmachung der Kippen - ?). (sic)

II/4. Petrography.	Prof. Dr. Schuller
II/5. Palaeontology.	Rettschlag
II/6. Laboratory.	Dr. Grassmann
II/7. Survey work (mine surveys).	Straubel
II/8. Survey work (topography).	Straubel
II/9. Archives.	Frau Sandrowski
II/10. Central library.	Proske
II/11. Central Geological Collection.	Dr. Genieser

5. Associated VEBs

Two independent VEBs work closely with the SGK on boring and mining operations. They are VEB Schachtbau and VEB Bohrungen.

VEB Bohrungen is known to possess a great number of Russian-made machines of recent manufacture.

6. Connections with Wismut AG

None are known to exist. Prof. Erich Lange, a former head of what is now the SGK, was heard some years ago to bemoan the fact that Wismut was so isolated and made no reports to the SGK.

7. Russian literature in the SGK library

There are a great many Russian geological books in the library and the following journals are taken regularly:

Ugol
Pochvovedeniye
Steklo i Keramika
Torfyanaya Promyshlennost
Tsement
Priroda
Some parts of Doklady Akademii Nauk SSSR
Byulleten Moskovskogo Obshchestva Ispytatele Prirody - Otdel Geologisheski
Vestnik Moskovskogo Universiteta
Izvestiya Vsesoyuznogo Geograficheskogo Obshchestva
Energeticheskiy Byulleten
Zapiski Vsesoyuznogo Mineralogicheskogo Obshchestva.

8. Russian interest in the SGK

(a) The Russians deal frequently with Neumann, the head of the SGK. Conferences take place in Berlin-Karlshorst or in the SGK building.

(b) The Russians are particularly interested in the fulfillment of the SGK's plans for borings and other projects.

(c) The Russians have also shown particular interest recently in oil prospecting in East Germany and have been laying emphasis on the importance of this work. They have also been interested in the borings at Ruedersdorf near Berlin. See below for details of these.

9. Russian and Satellite geological map material

In 1946, all map material bearing on the area East of the Oder-Neisse line was removed from the SGK by the Russians. Material in the course of compilation, as well as finished maps, were removed. All rooms and desks were personally searched for this material by a department head, Hirsch. It is not known that there are any recent geological maps of the USSR or Satellites in SGK now.

10. Oil prospecting in East Germany

(a) Preliminary borings are now being made at Grossen Fallstein bei Osterwieck (North Harz). At 900 - 1000 m., oil was found in the porous dolomite layer. It is though that the area is a good one for oil and that there exists the possibility of large deposits. The samples from the preliminary borings have been seen in the SGK, but, since no pumping investigations have yet taken place, nothing is known of the quantity of oil found.

(b) In Gebra-Lora bei Sollstaedt, southwest of Nordhausen, potash production has been resumed. Untertagebohrungen[1] showed traces of oil. The bore hole is sealed with a pressure maintained at 75 atu. pressure of natural gas. It was intended to take the borings down to the deeper-lying stratified dolomite beds; the borings have been suspended for the moment, however, since large finds of oil can not be expected to occur in the layers of low porosity.

(c) The gas borings started before the war in Langensalza (Thuringia, not far from Erfurt) are being continued. Large amounts of gas indicate the presence of oil.

11. Borings at Ruedersdorf near Berlin

(a) The Russians are displaying great interest in sample bores in the lime quarries at Ruedersdorf near Berlin.

(b) The purely scientific object of these borings is to determine the geological nature of the deep-lying substrata of the North German plain. Such deep bores as the present ones have not hitherto been made in the area. The practical object of the bores is to determine the stratification and extent of the upper permian (Zechstein) as bedrock (Muttergestein) for oil.

(c) The bores have reached a depth of 3,000 m. and are continuing. Traces of oil have been found, and the Russians are interested in the possibilities of large deposits in deeper layers not yet reached.

(d) Investigation of the deeper strata is particularly convenient at Ruedersdorf, because the bores can go through outcrops (Aufragungen) of chalk and limestone to layers which are otherwise difficult to reach.

12. Mineral salt production

(a) The production of potash is becoming increasingly difficult in East Germany. The effects of ruthless exploitation during and since the war are being felt. Further prospecting is now being carried out. It has recently become necessary to resume exploitation of some old mines previously abandoned as uneconomical.

(b) The working of carnalite (containing potassium) is also known to the SGK to be held up by the fact that East Germany has not been able to develop new treating processes.

13. Copper

All investigations concerning the richest copper veins in East Germany, those near Mansfeld and one or two other towns (Eisleben and possibly Hettstedt), were removed from the SGK sphere of competence early this year. It is not known who is responsible now. It is believed in the SGK that this copper goes to the USSR, because it is not accounted for in the East German economic plans.

1. [redacted] Comment. Mine gallery bores. 25X1